(d) whether the State Government of Maharashtra have registered them as Veterinary practitioners; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to amend the Veterinary Council Act, 1984 to register such non-graduate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (c) The Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984 fully safeguards the duties and responsibilities of veterinary field assistants/stock assistants and such other non-graduate personnel as they can render Minor veterinary services under the supervision and direction of registered veterinary practitioners. As such veterinary services in rural areas will not be affected.

(d) Many States have their own Veterinary Practitioners Acts and as per most of the State Veterinary Practitioners Acts and the Indian Veterinary Council Act, only veterinary graduates are eligible for registration. However, as per the Maharashtra Veterinary Practitioners Act, 1971, a person can be registered even though he may not be possessing qualifications entitling him to have his name entered in the register.

(e) As provisions in the Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984 have been made on the basis of provisions available in most of the State Veterinary Practitioners Acts and the Indian Medical Council Act, there is no proposal to amend the Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984.

Ban on practice by Non-Graduate Veterinarians

2079. SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Non-Graduate Veterinarians are working independently in Rural Veterinary Dispensaries and Veterinary Sub-centres for over 30 years;

(b) if so, what were the reasons for imposing conditions on their existing practice by the Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984; and

(c) what are the reasons for not recognising their services based on their qualification and experience on the line of Pharmacy/Homoeopathy and Auyrvedic Council Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Veterinary field assistants, stock assistants etc. look after the work of veterinary first aid centres/stockmen centres located in rural areas under the administrative and technical control of veterniary assistant surgeons of nearby veterinary hospitals or dispensaries.

(b) The Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984 fully safeguards the duties and responsibilities of veterinary field assistants/stocks assistants etc. as such personnel can render Minor Veterinary Services under the supervision and direction of registered veterinary practitioners.

(c) Does not arise.

Eviction of Hindi News Agencies

2080. SHRI KANHU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two defunct Hindi news agencies are occupying prime accommodation in New Delhi without giving any rent to Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that one of these agencies has allowed some business to be opened in the premises near Connaught Place;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for permitting continued misuse of the said premises; and